

### **REMARKS**

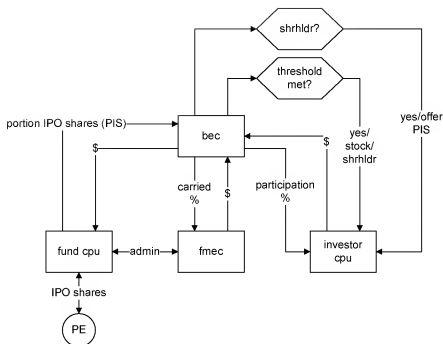
The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the non-Final Office Action of July 31, 2008. Claims 1-25 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In the present amendment, claims 1-25 are cancelled, and claims 26-103 are added. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., FIGs. 1-5, and page 11, second full paragraph, last paragraph spanning pages 11-12, and last paragraph spanning pages 12-13 of Applicant's Disclosure as filed). Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hamilton for the personal interview conducted with Applicant's undersigned attorney and Applicant on November 12, 2008. During the discussions, although no agreement was reached, Applicant's undersigned attorney noted the novel features of the invention of new claim 26 and the changes to the Specification to address the art and §101 rejections, and as set forth in detail below.

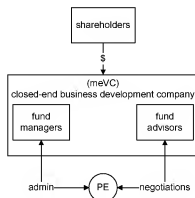
In response to the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections, claims 1-25 have been cancelled and new claims 26-103 have been added and the Specification has been amended to provide support for computer program product claims. No new matter is introduced. Accordingly, the pending claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §101 and no further rejection on such a basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

The above amendments find support, for example, from ordinary skill in the software and electrical arts, based on the disclosure of the invention as a whole, FIGs. 1-5, and page 11, second full paragraph, last paragraph spanning pages 11-12, and last paragraph spanning pages 12-13 of Applicant's Disclosure as filed. Claims 26-51 are system claims based on claim 26 and cancelled claims 1-25, claims 52-77 are method claims corresponding to system claims 26-51 and claims 78-103 are software claims based on method claims 52-77.

As discussed during the interview, the applied references (United States Patent Application 20010032157 to Dannenberg, Ross Alan et al. and Draper "Draper to Launch venture IPO"), alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest the novel system of claim 26, as illustrated below (e.g., based on FIGs. 1-5 of the application as filed).



Specifically, Draper, as illustrated below, merely discloses allowing investing by shareholders in a closed-end business development company (meVC) having managers and advisors for portfolio entities (PEs), but fails to disclose, teach or suggest the novel system of claim 26, as discussed during the interview.



Similarly, Dannenberg et al., as illustrated below, merely discloses a system for aggregating via an agent 205 a pool 207 of small investors 209 for investing in an entrepreneurial entity 201, but also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the novel system of claim 26, as discussed during the interview.



FIG. 2

Accordingly, independent system claim 26 and corresponding method and software claims 52 and 78 are allowable over the applied references, because the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of the inventions independent claim 26, 52 and 78 nor the advantages thereof. The dependent claims 27-51, 53-77 and 79-103 are allowable over the applied references, alone or in combination, on their own merits and for at least the reasons argued above with respect to independent claims 26, 52 and 78.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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